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## **SOUTH WAKE PARK PROJECT REBUFFS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' STATEMENT**

RALEIGH, North Carolina (January 16, 2019) – It is hard to believe that Commissioners Ford, Holmes, West, and Adamson are [doubling down on their horrible decision](#) to sell valuable county park land. As if they haven't spent enough taxpayer time and money on this process already, now they're wasting time rehashing the same arguments made over a year ago. Their unprecedented decision has been met with incredible backlash. Yesterday, these four Commissioners tried to justify their bad decision with a 13-page explanation, crafted behind closed doors, that is riddled with the same rhetoric paid for by their deep-pocketed donors in last year's contentious election.

There is nothing new in their statement and each of their feeble arguments have been addressed many times before. They claim they do not support the "bail out of a failed golf course." But it wasn't a bailout -- the golf course had been closed since 2015. Not to mention, if the County had bailed out a failed golf course when they voted to purchase the land, then the County would own a golf course right now. No matter how much fear, uncertainty, and doubt they try to throw out to the public on this, the bottom line is they just voted to sell park land for the first time in Wake County's history and in an area of the county where it is needed most. If they are righteous and justified in taking this action, why did they rush the process in a three-week period during the busy holiday season?

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, 68 individuals spoke from their hearts to the Commissioners in a meeting room overflowed with additional park supporters about the importance of keeping the land, the promise of a park, and the integrity of the Wake County board. This group included the mayor of Fuquay-Varina, two Fuquay-Varina Commissioners, the mayor of Holly Springs, three Council members of Holly Springs, a representative from the Sierra Club, a 9/11 cancer victim, an environmental educator from Chapel Hill, the former Director of Parks for Wake County, a representative from the American Legion, and dozens of residents from Cary, Raleigh, Holly Springs, Apex, Wake Forest, Chapel Hill and Fuquay-Varina. Unfortunately, ALL of these voices fell on deaf ears. Do the Commissioners really think that all of these people live in Crooked Creek?

In the days following the Wake BOC meeting, Commissioners received hundreds of e-mails from citizens supporting the South Wake Park. Their Facebook pages are filled with thousands of comments from people all over the county supporting this park and yet they are still trying to save face. No matter how they try to spin or justify their action, the bottom line is that they are ignoring the will of the people. Despite 68% of the county approving a bond for more parks and open spaces, they are moving to do just the opposite. They pretended to listen politely to 68 speakers in a room filled with park supporters and then ignored every single one of them. This is a very sad representation of democracy. Truth be told, this is really about politics, not a park, and the real victims of this travesty are the citizens of Wake County who engaged in and trusted their local government just to have the rug pulled out from under them.

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About us: The [South Wake Park Project](#) is a collection of concerned Wake County citizens intent on preserving the property as a county park for our friends, families and neighbors to enjoy.